

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that Claims 1, 3, 9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over the U.S. patent to Knouse.

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over the patent to Knouse.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over the patent to Knouse.

Claims 1, 3, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over the U.S. patent to Nalley in view of the patent to Knouse.

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 112.

At the same time the Examiner indicated that Claims 18-20 are not rejected over the art.

The Examiner's indication of allowability of Claims 18-20 have been gratefully acknowledged.

In connection with this indication, Claim 18 has been amended by introducing into it the features of Claim 1, and this claim should be considered as being in allowable condition.

Claim 20 has been amended by introducing into it the features of Claim 1, and this claim should also be considered as being in allowable condition.

As for the dependent claims, these claims have been amended to depend on Claims 18 or 20 correspondingly. Since they share the allowable features of Claims 18 and 20 they should be considered as being in allowable condition as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application with all the claims currently on file is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should

the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Striker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Striker
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